



# Basic Training Information

## A/1-19<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery



26 November 2014, CLASS 13-15

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**FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Greetings!

I am Captain Jermaine K. Quinn, your Soldier's Battery Commander during his/her Initial Entry Training in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and has begun basic combat training in Alpha Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 19<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (A/1-19FA).

During the nine week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the cadre who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

**YOUR SOLDIER MAY CALL HOME SOON!**

You may have received a phone call from your Soldier by now. Within the first 72 hours of physically arriving to Fort Sill your Soldier was given the opportunity to make a short phone call. I will ensure that your Soldier makes another short phone call, to the person of their choosing, within 48 hours of reporting to Alpha Battery. During the cycle your Soldier will have the opportunity to earn phone privileges during each phase change (about every three weeks). Please know that, although it is rare, this privilege may be denied for misconduct or poor performance.

For the short duration of Basic Combat Training your Soldier will not have their personal cell phones available to them.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK.**

Family and friends are a big part of the Army family and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements I will attempt to bridge that gap by frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=159096183642#!/pages/Lawton/A1-19-FA-434-FA-BDE/159096183642>

If you simply type in "A/1-19FA" in the search engines "Google" or "Bing" the first result will be the Battery Facebook page.

## ***YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!***

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am certain that he/she will miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity, and you can be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you, as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

**Rank Last Name, First Name MI.**

**A 1/19 FA, Platoon # (Example: 4<sup>th</sup> PLT), Class 13-15**

**5970 SOUTH BOUNDARY RD**

**FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.**

\* Abbreviations for US Army ranks are PVT for Private (E-1), PV2 for Private (E-2), PFC for Private First Class (E-3), and SPC for Specialist (E-4). If you do not yet know your loved ones Platoon (PLT#), and or rank, don't worry we will ensure they will get your letters however, it will make it easier to distribute the mail to all 240 Soldiers if you include it in future letters.

Packages are not generally necessary because your Soldier is able to buy additional items here at our local Post Exchange. However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ **No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics**
- ✓ **No weapons**
- ✓ **No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices**
- ✓ **No pornographic or morally questionable materials**
- ✓ **No magazines**
- ✓ **No food items**
- ✓ **When in doubt, just send letters**

## ***WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?***

The best thing you can do is to write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy; so even if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks continue to send positive letters to motivate them until they can reply.

## ***HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?***

Relax, your soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie Full Metal Jacket. Today's soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.

## ***MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?***

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations. They are allowed to attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain's office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?**

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, he will be given another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, I will decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES**

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who will contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?**

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits.

### **GRADUATION INFORMATION**

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier will graduate at 1000 A.M. on Thursday, 19 February 2015 at McMahon Auditorium in Lawton, OK. (Location is subject to change, you will be notified in a timely manner. A map will be posted on our Facebook page.) After graduation, your Soldier will report to their next duty station for Advanced Individual Training. In a few weeks, we will be posting another letter on Facebook with information concerning your Soldier's family day and graduation.

Please know that there will be some Soldiers who will not graduate due to various reasons. Have a candid conversation with your Soldier so that that you may make your reservations for lodging in advance.

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

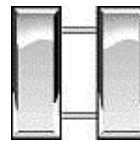
If we can be of assistance to you in any matter relating to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following people by mail or email:



Battery First Sergeant

**Jason T. Gibson**

e-mail: [jason.t.gibson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jason.t.gibson.mil@mail.mil)



Battery Commander:

**Jermaine K. Quinn**

e-mail: [jermaine.quinn1.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jermaine.quinn1.mil@mail.mil)